

Action Line

Playground at Feltwell

Is there any way we can get some playground equipment installed in the housing areas at RAF Feltwell?

There are no plans to install additional playground equipment in the Feltwell housing areas until fiscal year 1999, as part of the whole-house-improvement program.

Presently, minor-improvement-program funds that can be used for playground equipment in all housing areas are severely limited. We need the funds to complete sorely-needed parking improvements in the RAF Lakenheath and Feltwell housing areas. (POC: John Bialke, 48th Civil Engineer Squadron, Ext. 2100)

15-minute parking

Can most or all of the parking spaces in the parking area

by the dry cleaners, military clothing, and alterations be marked "15 minute parking only?" I dislike walking hundreds of yards in the rain and wind with my clean laundry and I am sure others do too.

No. There are more parking spaces in that area than there are customers for those facilities. Limiting parking to 15 minutes in all spaces would mean most would remain empty throughout the day.

In mid-January we put in two 15-minute parking spaces, which will help people get in and out quickly with clothes in hand. (POC: 48th Support Group, Ext. 4504)

Lunch breaks at Feltwell

It seems that elementary students at RAF Feltwell only have 15 minutes or less to eat

lunch. Is there any way they can be given more time to eat?

Yes. As a result of your query, Principal Sharon Freed has directed lunchroom monitors to wait an additional five minutes before reminding children to finish eating lunch.

All elementary students have 45 minutes for a combination lunch and recess. Students who need more time, however, will not be forced to leave the lunchroom after 20 minutes. They may remain until they have eaten their lunch. (POC: Stephen Michael, liaison schools officer, Ext. 5078)

24-hour cable repair

Is there any way CableCom can offer 24-hour repair services? I have missed three major sports events because my cable has gone out and no one has repaired it in a timely manner.

Yes, but rates would increase by 50 percent for CableCom customers. The current contract

requires CableCom to provide maintenance from 8 a.m. - midnight and fix problems within 16 hours. Based on this, we have decided not to renegotiate for a 24-hour service. (POC: Alan Rose, contracting specialist, Ext. 7087)

Action Line

The Action Line is your direct link to me for complaints, suggestions, or comments. It's not intended to replace the chain of command. When normal command and agency channels haven't been able to resolve your concerns, call Ext. 2324, fax (Ext. 5367), e-mail (Action_Line), distribution (48 FW/PA), mail (48 FW/PA, Unit 5210 Box 215 APO AE 09464-0215), or hand carry your Action Line to the public affairs office (Bldg. 1085). You may remain anonymous; however, to receive a reply, leave your name, unit, duty or home phone number, and full APO mailing address. Names will be kept confidential.



48th Fighter Wing commander

Overtaking cars on small British roads is more than just a 'passing' concern . . .

By Bob Van Elsberg
Road and Recreation managing editor

Nothing adds zest to your driving experience like pulling into the oncoming lane to pass and discovering the "squirrels" under the hood are taking a nap. There you sit - accelerator pedal mashed to the floor while you keep one eye on the approaching traffic and the other on the vehicle you're trying to pass. Before long, it becomes obvious your "time to impact" with an oncoming 18-wheeler is less than what you need to finish passing. You decide its better to be safe than sorry and drop back behind the vehicle you were trying to pass.

The above-described scenario is pretty common on country roads. The four-cylinder engines in many of today's small cars lack the "muscle" of their six- and eight-cylinder cousins. Still, there is a better procedure than pulling into the oncoming lane,

jamming the "pedal to the metal," and hopping for the best. I call it the "Slingshot Method."

What is the "Slingshot Method?" Basically, it's planning your pass in advance and allowing enough room to build up passing speed before pulling into the oncoming lane.

The first step is like drawing back a slingshot pouch in preparations to shooting. Rather than pulling up close behind the car you want to pass, stay back and allow yourself some room to accelerate in your lane. The old rule for following a vehicle - allowing one car length for each 10

mph speed - is a pretty good rule of thumb.

Not only do you allow room ahead for emergency stops, you also allow room to get up to passing speed before venturing into the oncoming lane. In the bargain, you also get better visibility down the road, especially if the vehicle in front is a large truck. That visibility will help you see dangers in the road ahead such as blind curves,

dips which could hide an approaching car, or vehicles entering from side roads.

The next step is like releasing the slingshot's pouch and allowing it to fly forward. Once you're sure it's safe to pass, accelerate to a safe passing speed and signal your intentions. Check the rearview mirror to make sure no one is trying to pass you, then check ahead again to make sure the road is still clear. Once you've approached to within two car lengths of the vehicle you want to pass, pull smoothly into the oncoming lane and go around. Signal your intention to return to your traffic lane and leave enough space behind so that you don't cut off the other driver.

Passing on one-lane country roads will always be potentially dangerous - especially for drivers of slow-ac-

celerating cars. Also, wisdom dictates you should never try to pass when doing so means exceeding the speed limit or going too fast for the road you're on. Using the "Slingshot Method" will, however, reduce the time you're exposed to oncoming traffic. And that will make the process safer - and much less heart-stopping - for all involved.

Nothing adds zest to your driving experience like pulling into the oncoming lane to pass and discovering the "squirrels" under the hood are taking a nap.